

THE '90s



Taking a walk down memory lane page 10

# The Shakerite

MONEY TALKS

Center-piece explores where teens spend and how to save



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February 28, 2005 • Volume 75 • Issue 6 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

## Swiping ID cards doesn't abate the wait

• Class cutters and 'salad people' slow down lines, contribute to cafeteria congestion

BY ALEX WILLIAMS  
STAFF REPORTER

"Most of the time it's 'salad people.'"

So says junior Glynnae Parrish. "Salad people are the ones who say that they're only getting salad, but instead they just get in the door to cut," she explained.

Lunchtime is the highlight of the day for many students. It serves as a relaxing break, ends morning starvation or simply provides time to finish the chemistry homework you didn't do last night.

**“**My suggestion is a longer lunch period.  
**”**

Junior James Norton eats lunch fourth period. "People procrastinate to get their lunch, then they want to get it at the end. Socialize after you get your food, people," Norton suggested.

To help speed lines along, admin-

istrators instituted two kinds of lunch lines last year – an ID line and a cash line. Students who carry their school IDs can use them to buy lunch in the exclusive line, which should be faster because it does not involve cash transactions. Students who don't carry their IDs or who don't add money to them are supposed to the cash line, which is often more crowded and slower. Signs posted at the line entries distinguish between the two. Students who enter the wrong line are directed to the appropriate line in order to expedite lunch purchases.

Nevertheless, students' comments  
SEE LUNCH PAGE 11



Dan Soeder • THE SHAKERITE  
LONG LUNCH LINES keep students waiting during fourth period. Although there are lines for ID card accounts and cash, students still find themselves short on time to eat.

## Lab triggers drill

BY LAUREN WEISS  
NEWS EDITOR

"It was just an accident," insisted science teacher Travis Cox regarding the Feb. 3 fire alarm.

It seems that Cox was conducting a demonstration about the relationship between reactivity and surface area for his fourth/fifth period physical science class, which is currently in its chemistry semester. The experiment involved squeezing a squeeze-ball filled with flour and attempting to ignite it. On the fourth or fifth attempt (around 11:15 a.m.) enough particles of flour had accumulated that Cox's attempt to ignite the flour was successful, causing, in Cox's words, a "giant flame" that tripped the fire alarm.

Cox said that Room 226 was not designed for chemistry experiments, but that he had assumed that because the class met in that room, it was OK for him to proceed.

Junior Alexander Barnes said the class was surprised when the alarm went off, although Cox knew it was the experiment that had triggered it.

"We thought someone had pulled the alarm," Barnes said.

Cox said that people didn't mind having to wait outside for almost 20 minutes. The temperature was in the high 30s with sunny skies.

"Everyone was happy," he said. "It was a nice day."



Cox

## Learning from the Past



BY MEGHAN THOMPSON  
COPY EDITOR

**V**ote or Die!"

This phrase, coined by P. Diddy, revives the spirit of the 2004 presidential election. The slogan also serves as this year's Sankofa theme.

Sankofa, which debuted in 1998 in Shaker, is a performance that celebrates African-American History Month. Sankofa comes from the Akan word meaning "learning from the past." According to adviser Joseph Houser, a social studies teacher, the show's significance parallels this Ashante proverb: "It is not forbidden to return and fetch it when you forget."

SEE SANKOFA PAGE 12

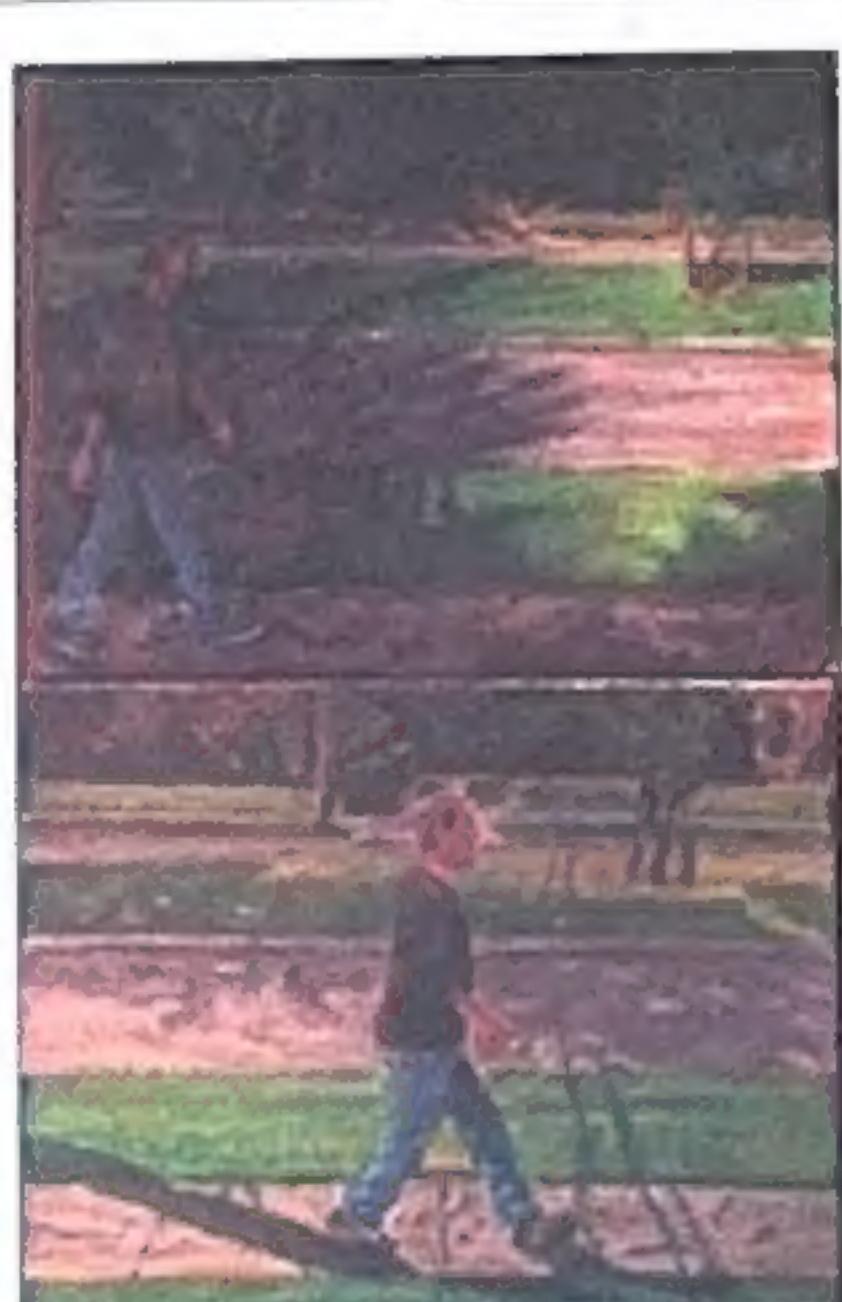
STUDENTS REHEARSE FOR the Feb. 28 Sankofa performance, Shaker's seventh. Participants will perform twice, once during the day for students and once in the evening for the community.

Jaclyn Inglin • THE SHAKERITE

## Artists net 34 Scholastic awards

PICTURED ARE TWO frames from senior Steve Katz's three-frame painting titled "Three Times a Day." Katz's painting earned a Silver Key at the Regional Scholastic Art Awards. Katz used oil paint and pastels.

Emily Grannis  
• THE SHAKERITE



**“**That's what everyone wants to do in the art program. It's what everyone strives for.  
**”**

Dan Whately  
art teacher

BY MARGUERITE MOORE  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Shaker 34, Cleveland School of the Arts 14.

Victory is sweet, even on canvas.

Recently, the high school art department tallied 34 awards at the 25th Annual Cuyahoga County Regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition, making Shaker one of the top earners in the competition and beating rival Cleveland School of the Arts, a magnet art school, which earned 14 awards.

More than 100 Cuyahoga

County schools entered art for critique by 16 judges. Shaker earned three awards at the middle school level, while the remaining awards were given at the high school level. Additionally, senior James Quarles earned an award for video art.

"We've never done that before," art teacher Dan Whately said of Quarles' award. "It's breaking new ground for us."

Of the 34 awards, Shaker received six Gold Key Awards and three portfolio nominations, which are the top honors. These pieces will advance to the national competition in

New York City.

"I'm proud of what these kids do," Whately said.

Students had to submit art work by Dec. 15; the regional show was held at Cuyahoga Community College.

Senior Zach Simon-Curry earned two awards for his drawings. One, titled "Urban Landscape" was awarded the Gold Key, while the other, "Untitled Still Life" received an honorable mention.

"That's what everyone wants to do in the art program. It's what everyone strives for," he said.

# Appreciation for all seasons

- US reflects salad bowl, not melting pot

The traditional idea of America as a melting pot is being rejected in favor of a salad bowl, where people coexist peacefully but retain their cultural identities. Seven months of the year are devoted to recognizing groups who have had an impact on America. Each year, the president officially kicks off each celebration by "proclaiming" it and encouraging "public officials, educators, librarians and all the people of the U.S. to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs."

In addition to the annual national observance of African American history in February, several other months in the U.S. calendar are dedicated to raising awareness about identity groups. We may not often hear about National Hispanic Heritage Month in September or National Learning Disabilities Month in October, but six other months are designated for such observances.

In that spirit, The Shakerite has provided a calendar to inform you of the lesser-known recognition months.

Compiled by Emily Grannis and Marguerite Moore



Amy Silver • THE SHAKERITE

## The Shakerite

Volume 75 • Issue 1  
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Calendar from [http://www.diversityhotwire.com/heritage\\_months.html](http://www.diversityhotwire.com/heritage_months.html)

## seasons

for all

### January

### March National Women's History Month



It's a big part of our history, and I know that a lot of people don't know about it.

Glynnae Parrish  
junior

### February Black History Month

- In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a graduate of Harvard University, declared the second week in February "Negro History Week." He chose that week because it comprises both Frederick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.
- In 1976, America's bicentennial year, the week was extended to African American History Month.
- The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, a professional organization founded by Woodson, chooses the theme of African American History Month every year. The group also holds an annual convention and publishes the Journal of African American History.
- This year's theme for African American History Month is "The Niagara Movement: Black Protest Reborn, 1905-2005."
- Some African Americans, including W.E.B. Dubois, founded the Niagara Movement to challenge Booker T. Washington's philosophy toward race relations because they felt it was too accommodating.

### April

### June Gay and lesbian pride month

### August

### October National Learning Disability Awareness Month

### December

### May

Asian Pacific American Heritage and Older Americans Month

### July

### September National Hispanic-Latino Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15)



Being that the Hispanic population in Ohio is increasing, I would think it's very important to have more awareness.

José Pérez  
Spanish teacher

### November National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month



Each week they should do something on the announcements like they do this week in black history.

Yolanda Gray  
sophomore

- The idea to recognize Native Americans in a formal manner was first proposed in 1912. However, it took 78 years for a formal government proclamation of National American Indian Heritage Month.
- The first recorded proposal to honor Native Americans was initiated by Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside one day to celebrate Native Americans. The Boy Scouts called this day "First Americans" and celebrated it for three years from 1912-1915.
- On Sept. 28 1915, Arapahoe Indian Rev. Sherman Coolidge, who was also president of the American Indian Association, proclaimed the second Saturday of each May to be recognized as "American Indian Day."
- In 1990, President George H.W. Bush formally declared November as National American Indian Heritage Month.
- According to the 2000 census, .2 percent of American Indians and Alaska natives reside in Ohio, while these groups make up 9 percent of the U.S. population.

## Tsunami relief receives more money

At press time for the January issue of The Shakerite, the AFS Tsunami Relief Fund had raised \$2,709. Spanish teacher and AFS adviser Bernadette Thoenes said the organization has since received an additional \$275.



In addition, The Shakerite article omitted senior Kevin Margolius, whom Thoenes said was in charge of organizing the fundraising effort. "He did such an outstanding job," she said. "He really drove everything."

# American soldier: Life in uniform

Last year, 2004 graduate Joe Lesnafsky packed his bags and went to Parris Island, S.C. as a civilian. He returned as Private First Class Lesnafsky of the United States Marine Corps. He shared his experiences and views on becoming a Marine from boot camp to deployment.

**Q** When did you begin having interest in joining the armed forces and for what reasons?

**A** Halfway through my junior year, I didn't want to go right into school after high school, I wanted to repay my country for 18 years of protecting me.

**Q** Why did you choose to join the Marines rather than the Army or Navy?

**A** The Marines are the bad-asses of the armed services. Marines are more disciplined, better trained and are better killers than any other branch.

**Q** Why did you decide to enlist right after high school rather than participate in a college ROTC program or military college?

**A** With my Shaker education, I am destined to lead, what better way to command respect than to say, "I've done your job, I know exactly what you are going through."

**Q** What were the reactions of your family, friends and counselor when you disclosed to them that you were planning on joining the Marines?

**A** I've had reactions ranging from "Good job for defending our country," to "Haha, you're gonna get shot."

**Q** Would you like to see combat?

**A** Any man that says he would like to see combat is a liar. I am confident that my training will keep me alive, so I can come back to Shaker once again.

**Q** How would you feel about the possibility of going to Iraq, and do you agree with the war?

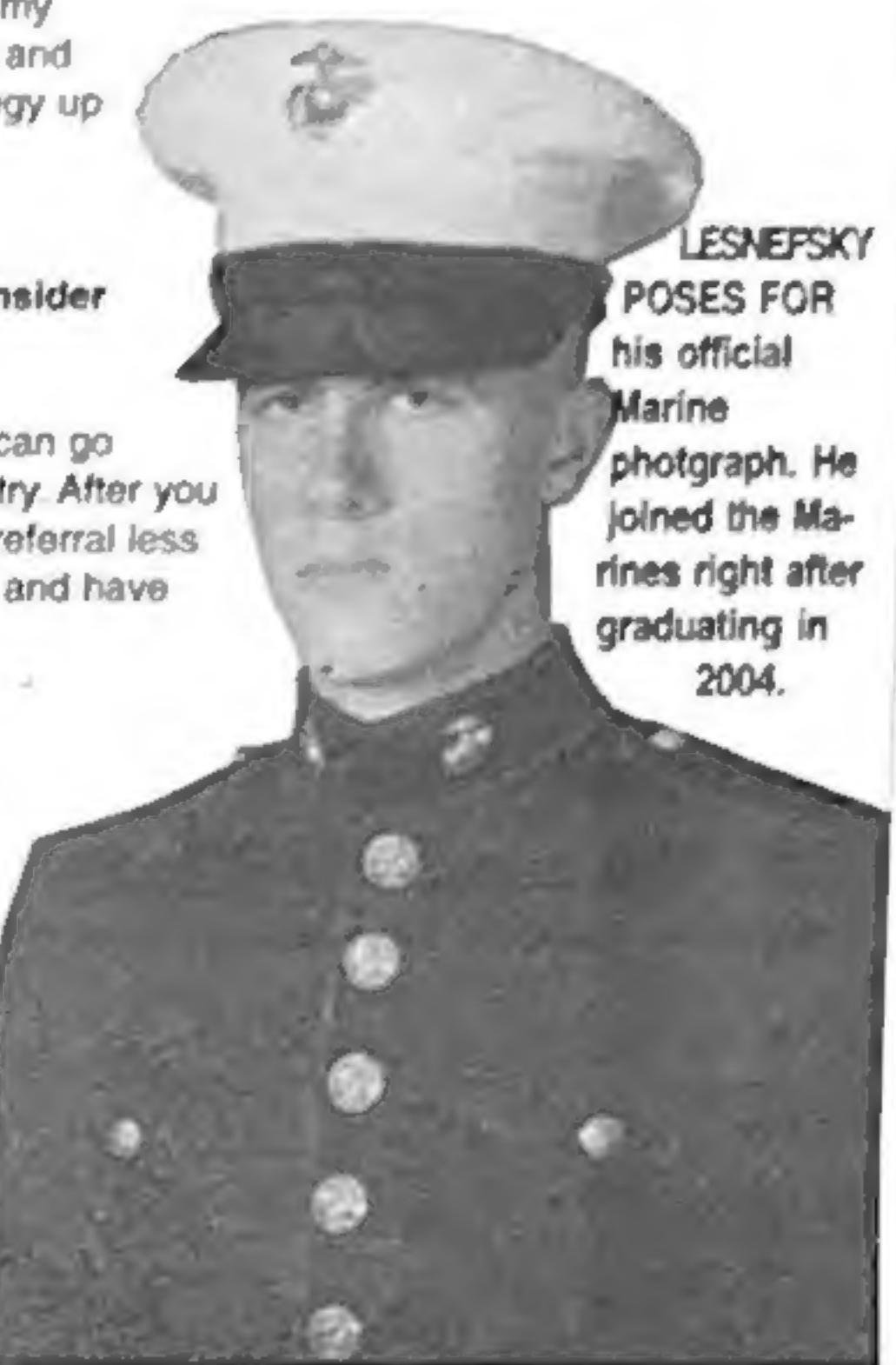
**A** I will go wherever they need me. As for my thoughts on the war, I just fix computers and recruit applicants. I leave all of the strategy up to my superiors.

**Q** Why should high school students consider the Marines as an option?

**A** College is overrated. You're young, you can go out, have a little fun and serve your country. After you serve you're still young, now possess a referral less than 1 percent of the populace can claim and have \$40,000 for college. Not a bad deal.

**Q** What advice would you give someone joining the armed services?

**A** It may suck for a while, but keep in mind why you joined. You will get through it and you will be a better person for it.



LESNEFSKY  
POSES FOR  
his official  
Marine  
photograph. He  
joined the Ma-  
rines right after  
graduating in  
2004.

Compiled by Adam Weinstein  
Photo courtesy of Ann Lesnafsky

## The last assignment: preparing senior project

BY EMILY GRANNIS  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Senior project** — the much-awaited end to four long years of work. Seniors get to leave the classroom and move into the "real world."

Victor Nimmons, who plans to work at MetroHealth Medical Center, will learn how to handle and prevent hazardous material spills from safety officer Maryanne Hudak.

"She's pretty much going to give me the basics . . . Then I'll probably follow around one of the active officers and they'll show me the do's and don'ts," Nimmons said.

Although Nimmons did need parental consent to work with dangerous materials, he did not have much difficulty getting his project approved.

"I just had to get a parent signature just to signify that they knew I'd be working with hazardous materials," he said. "That was pretty much it."

Walter Slovikovski, a senior project adviser, explained that students are responsible for meeting several paperwork deadlines before their projects are approved.

"If a student has an idea that seems somewhat risky, the three advisers will debate the project and see what would be needed to either move the project forward or have it scrapped for a new project. We are able to reflect back on certain projects that have not been successful in the past and try to get certain projects to carry a lot more justification before they go forward," he said.

Getting approval was more difficult for Zach Simon-Curry, Mike McIntosh and Mike Hering, who are planning to write and illustrate a children's book in Japanese. The advisers wanted to be sure that such a project would fulfill the time requirement of 100 hours per person.

"We just had to prove to [the advisers] that it would be enough hours for three people," Simon-Curry explained.

Hering said they had to modify their original project in order to prove that.

"An idea was just to do a book in English to go along with it," he said. They are also considering making an audio tape of the book in both languages and hope to incorporate pieces from both Japanese and American culture. McIntosh and Hering will write the book and Simon-Curry will illustrate it.

McIntosh and Hering came up with the idea for the project because they both take Japanese classes on Saturday mornings at Regina High School.

Nimmons chose his project after he met Hudak, who sparked his interest in hazardous materials.

"It was something I found interesting," he said.

All four seniors said they are looking forward to doing their projects, but there is a stronger incentive to going on senior project.

"I don't have to take finals," Nimmons said.



TWO TODDLERS PLAY after school at the Shaker Day School, a preschool run by the city that will close in August. Parents were upset they were not consulted before the city decided to close the school.

## Shaker Day Center to close

• City cites low enrollment, high costs

BY KATE GUESS  
STAFF REPORTER

The Shaker Day Center, a preschool operated by the city of Shaker since 1986, will close in August unless parents can solve the school's financial problems.

Deborah Richardson-Bouie, a parent, was disappointed by the way Shaker handled the situation. At a December 2004 City Council meeting she said, "Shaker isn't a community, it's a business." The center is experiencing financial strain, partially due to dwindling enrollment.

Parents of children in the day care were neither informed early of the center's closing nor asked for additional fees to help save the program. A letter sent out to

parents and teachers finally informed them in December of the plans to close.

"Shaker Day Center is a city program, and we made a determination that a government isn't good at running a day care. There are private programs with more space and better facilities, and who are better at running that kind of program," said Shaker communications director Leslie Grodin.

"The directors of the Early Childhood Enrichment Center have offered to put the children in the Shaker Day Center at the top of the list for enrollment," Grodin added.

Michelle Connell, another parent who attended the De-

cember City Council meeting, said she was never asked for a raise in tuition.

"[I would have been] more than willing to pay," she said.

Currently, 58 students are enrolled at the Shaker Day Center, which has the capacity to teach 80 children.

Kathy Higgins, vice president of the Parent Teacher Association of Shaker Day School, is concerned that teachers there will find themselves out of work. According to Higgins, there are already enough people unemployed in Ohio and there is no need to add to the number. Higgins requested that the council members give the association some time to try to salvage the day care — a request to which the city of Shaker complied. Parents have been urged by City Council members to help to continue the day care by finding private space and funding.

"Everyone has tried to make this a smooth transition," Grodin said.

Shaker Heights

Teachers' Association

**SHTA**

Professionals  
Educating

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Shaker's Youth

# Filling in the blanks

## • New OGT could have far-reaching implications

"Take this test seriously. Pass it on to your friends — this test is not going to go away."

With this warning, math teacher Walter Slovikovski began a Feb. 15 algebra review session for the math portion of the Ohio Graduation Test, a state assessment of sophomores that will be given the week of March 14. Math teacher Margaret Boles also taught the review session and math teacher Sondra Martin will host later sessions.

Apparently, students were not as worried as they should have been — only nine showed up, even after some teachers offered extra credit and the leaders made an effort to make the activities interesting, going so far as to create an Algebra Jeopardy game.

Sophomore Meridith Weaver attended the Feb. 16 algebra review session after Boles, her math tutor, encouraged her to go. Each session is held on a Tuesday and a Wednesday.

"The Jeopardy helped me a lot," she said. "I'll go to more sessions."

Only 71 percent of last year's sophomores passed the reading section on a practice test and only 62 percent passed the math component. These numbers are overall passage rates for the school, which means that certain subgroups performed better and some performed worse. For the school to hit federal benchmarks this year, each subgroup must have 10 percent fewer students fail each section of the test than last year. At a recent staffing, Principal Michael Griffith said that the school is most concerned about the performance of African-American males.

If the required number of students do not pass, the school will not meet Adequate Yearly Progress, a benchmark outlined in No Child Left Behind, federal legislation that became law in 2002. This would be the high school's third failing year, so the school would have to pay to send failing students to private tutoring centers. Using money from the school budget for the tutoring could lead to cuts in other areas, such as field trips.

The high school is making a concerted effort to make sure students pass the OGT. Math review sessions on data analysis and probability will be held March 1 and 2, and sessions on test-taking strategies will be held March 8 and 9. In addition, a packet about the test, including sample questions, was mailed to every sophomore's home in early February, and sophomores took practice tests in classes the first week in February.

Sophomore Kevin McDonald will take the OGT in March. He feels standardized tests are "important" because they measure school performance. However, he said that the practice tests taken in class were not really helpful.

"They seemed pointless, too easy," McDonald said.

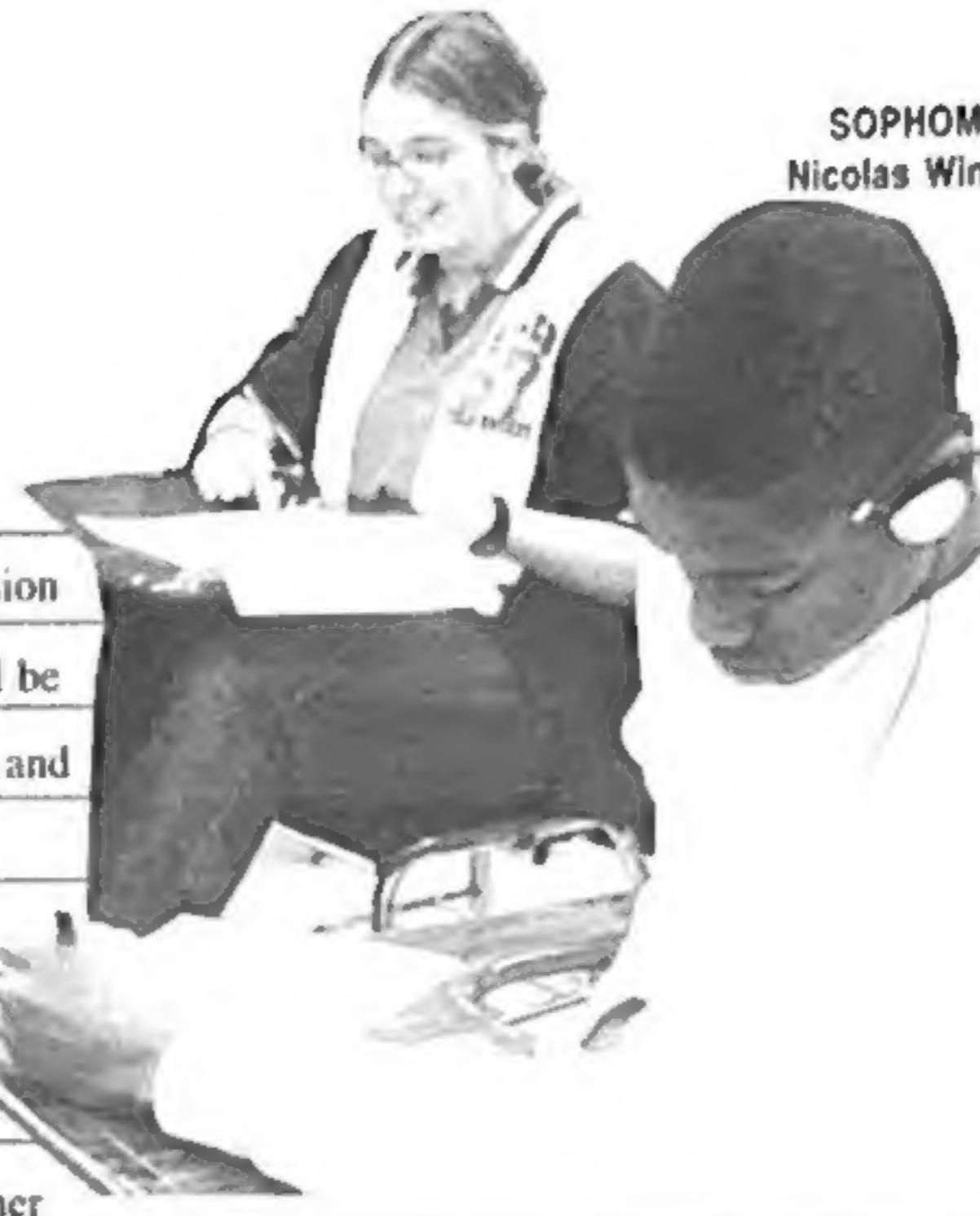
The OGT, which sophomores and all subsequent classes must pass to graduate, will be given March 14-18 and is the most recent standardized test to hit students' desks. The test includes sections on math, reading, writing, science and social studies and was conceived to meet accountability standards mandated by NCLB. This law requires that students take one standardized test in high school.

Griffith believes that the Shaker curriculum provides students with the tools they need to pass the OGT.

"We infuse most of the information in regular instruction so it's not an outside, contrived thing," he said.

Weaver, however, said that she is still "a little iffy" on science, reading and writing. She wishes that teachers would host review sessions for all five parts of the test.

"Most teachers could do a better job for preparing us. Teachers will say, 'Oh, this is going to be on the OGT' and then go on with the lesson," she said. "[However], most people think they're going to pass [the OGT]."



SOPHOMORES HALLE MINSHALL and Nicolas Winbush take a practice test third period Feb. 4 in Kenneth Culek's biology class to prepare for the science portion of the Ohio Graduation Test, which will be administered to sophomores the week of March 14. The class of 2007 is the first class that must pass the OGT to graduate, while earlier classes had to pass the ninth grade proficiency test.

NUMBER CORRECT	
PERCENT CORRECT	
ROSTER NUMBER	
SCORE	
RESCORE	

PEARSON  
NCS

COMBINED POINTS EARNED	
COMBINED PERCENT CORRECT	
LETTER GRADE	
SCORE	
RESCORE	



STUDENT ID N																																																																																																			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

NAME Lauren Weiss  
SUBJECT NEWS EDITOR

PERIOD DATE

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS  
Use a No. 2 Pencil.  
A B C D E  
Fill oval completely  
A B C D E  
Erase cleanly

Do you think class time should be spent taking practice standardized tests?



Scientific poll of 103 students with a margin of error of 10 percent. Shakerite staff interviewed students.

Allie Jennings • THE SHAKERITE

## Did he just say that?

Greer Garson holds the distinction of delivering the longest Oscar acceptance speech: Five minutes and 40 seconds. However, many Oscar winners have distinguished themselves in a much shorter time. In 2003 Michael Moore bashed President



Bush in his acceptance speech for documentary "Bowling for Columbine." In 1993 Tom Hanks revealed his closeted high school drama coach was gay after thanking him for inspiration during his best actor acceptance speech for "Philadelphia."

## Time for a change in tune

Walking into the social room on the eve of the winter ball, I was overwhelmed by loud, incomprehensible music. Every song played seemed to be a replica of the one before. Once I had overcome the musical shock, I realized that everyone was dressed as if they were on their way to a party at Hugh Hefner's Playboy mansion.

Although announcements had called for students to dress in formal garments — specifically not blue jeans — students paraded denim throughout the dance. Rocking your favorite pair of jeans is perfectly fine, and I see no problem in this traditional article of clothing being worn to dances. With their plea for formality, administrators and student leaders were targeting the wrong fashion faux pas.

Most students who wore jeans paired them with tasteful shirts. In general, jeans-clad students wore no problematic clothing. But some students chose to wear clothes that should not even be worn to a strip club, let alone a high school. Perhaps school leaders should not focus so much on useless announcements about not wearing jeans and instead set their sights on the scandalous dancing that accompanies the loud, heavily bleeped music.

I enjoy attending school-sponsored activities, such as hockey games and dances, but my friends and I are often forced to carve out our own circles on the perimeter to have fun dancing our way instead of joining the jumble of students in the middle of the dance floor who are 10 seconds away from having sexual intercourse.

What was different about this dance? Why was it that only repetitive rap music was played, and why did the grinding twerk dance reign supreme? As the questions in my mind accumulated, the music grew louder and the groping skyrocketed. I realized that music significantly influences student behavior.

The lack of musical variety at dances is a problem. Never before have I heard a Matchbox Twenty or a Celine Dion song, music that I enjoy listening and dancing to. Gavin DeGraw has had the No. 1 song in the country for weeks, yet neither "Chariot" nor "I Don't Want to Be" is ever featured at any of the dances.

People question whether those songs are "danceable." My answer is, "Yes!" Why should homecoming be the only dance that attracts a large turnout of diverse groups? Often I hear that dances other than homecoming are for preps, freshman and, frankly, those who watch BET. Better choices in music and attention to dress and dance styles would promote a better feeling about dances and, in turn, increase participation by (sober) students. All school events, especially at such a diverse and exemplary institution, should promote diversity in attendance and music. It would be awesome to attend the spring fling and see a diverse group of people, in attitude and dress, jamming to John Lennon's "Imagine."



Nteni Nlandu  
FOCUS EDITOR



## Give students a voice in evaluations

### 'the Rite Idea'

It's time students get a voice. Why is it that students, who see their teachers on a daily basis, are the last sources considered when determining if a teacher is performing up to standard? Instead of trusting students with an opportunity to speak out, administrators better authorities to conduct evaluations.

In their first three years at Shaker, teachers are observed by administrators six times a year. Teachers are evaluated based on criteria including organization, classroom environment, teaching style and professionalism.

But these evaluators don't have the same relationships with teachers that students do. It is obvious to students when certain teachers have a passion for their subjects and for teaching or when others seem unhappy. Spending one day observing a class hardly compares to a yearlong experience with a teacher. Classes often behave differently when an administrator is in the room. Students tend to become either more orderly, so as to not reflect badly on their teachers, or to act out if they want to give a poor impression. In either case,

the true classroom environment, one of the evaluation criteria for teachers, is compromised when an administrator is present.

Creating a formal student evaluation document that would become a legal component of teacher evaluations would ameliorate the problem. Though such a document would require approval from the school board and the teachers' union, it would give administrators a more realistic view of what goes on in a teacher's classroom.

It is because students are not given the opportunity to evaluate their teachers in a mature manner that websites such as [ratemyteachers.com](http://ratemyteachers.com) exist. While this site and others like it quickly become outlets for student rants, the idea of making comments about a teacher's style, intensity of assignments, accessibility and performance is a valid one.

If students are expected to learn, they should be allowed a greater voice to express if they are actually learning with their teachers. The evaluations would also enhance learning by encouraging students to formally reflect on their experiences with teachers and classes.

### Reality Chart

## Those movies we thought looked good but weren't - and where they went wrong

The Movie	Why It Looked Good	Why It Was Bad
"Dogville"	Nicole Kidman stars in a movie with a sense of impending doom throughout, plus there's also a mystery as to why she's in a town in the middle of nowhere.	Despite the excellent plot, the fact that the entire movie was filmed in an empty soundstage made it hard to watch.
"Seed of Chucky"	Let's be honest: anyone who thought this movie would be anything other than amusing is probably more twisted than Charles Ray himself.	Playtime should have been over for our little villain after the third movie- overkill is just so evil!
"Cat Woman"	Halle Berry as the famous feline heroine kicking butt- a seemingly purrfect combination.	Comy one-liners and a disappointing showdown make the movie seem like one big hairball.
"The Day After Tomorrow"	End of the world, plus a chance to see what the Big Apple would look like frozen- who says a big budget can't buy an Oscar?	Was that an ending? The most depressing part is the fact that most of the unimpressive cast survives.
"Anchorman"	Will Ferrell rarely manages to disappoint in the comedy department.	Apparently all the funny parts were used in the 30 second commercials; any movie that ends in a zoo needs new writers.
"Van Helsing"	Hottie Hugh Jackman battles an equally seductive Dracula and his minions- definitely showing potential for a good action movie.	The movie goes downhill when the only main character with talent- Dracula - dies.
"The Village"	The advertisements promised a thriller that would keep us on the edge of our seats- high expectations for a director who believed he was the Hitchcock of twist endings.	Never make a promise you can't keep. Perhaps the line "Don't let them in" was actually directed toward the audience?
"A Series of Unfortunate Events"	A movie based on the very popular book series, not to mention the hilarious Jim Carey is in one of the leading roles.	Some books are better unadapted- what may have been exciting on paper was dull on screen.
"White Noise"	Creepy commercials of the voices of dead people- the idea seemed somewhat original.	It turns out the voices weren't of dead people, and washed up Michael Keaton ends up playing detective - booring!
"The Matrix Revolutions"	Since the first two movies were good, it was natural to assume the third would be just as good, and, we hoped, better.	Don't ever assume - Audiences were robbed of a decent ending, which is the most important part of a trilogy.

## Languages lack practicality

Watch your language! I'm not talking about swearing, but rather which foreign language you take in school because chances are, it won't help you in the real world.

Shaker offers a "wide" selection of "important" languages such as Latin, Greek, and German, but these are merely remnants of the curriculum used for the aristocratic children of our founding fathers.

Spanish is one of the few offered languages that is useful, considering the span of the Hispanic world and the fact that Latinos are the largest minority in America.

Ancient Greek is used when reading the Bible's first western translation or Greek mythology, which lead to a degree in classical studies and a cozy McDonald's managerial position. If the fact that the Catholic Church, outside the Vatican, abandoned Latin isn't a big enough clue that it's outdated, what is?

How about French, the language of love? Good to know if you don't want to offend a pretentious Parisian waiter, but impractical beyond that. French imperial outposts are long gone, and the language is almost forgotten. In Vietnam, for example, only those over 40 speak the language.

German may prove more useful because Germany is the premier European economy, but as a result it is also the most westernized. Not to sound like an arrogant American, but most Germans speak English.

Many more useful languages should be taught, such as Mandarin, the official language of China, a rapidly growing world power of a billion people, or perhaps Hindi, the official language of India, which has increasingly become the headquarters of our computer industries. Even Arabic would be more practical because the government is in need of Arabic speakers to translate intelligence documents in order to locate the Osamas of the world, who unlike the Soviets, are long-term threats.

It is not that traditional languages have no value or shouldn't be taught, but high school is designed to teach the most general and essential information. If in science class we learn widely useful subjects like physics and chemistry, not nuclear fission and bioengineering, why don't we learn the most used languages, too?

Some schools use the excuse that there is a shortage of teachers for these languages, but even in Cleveland we have the second largest Palestinian population in the country, a growing Chinese population and many Indians. If native speakers of these languages knew that there were teaching positions waiting for them, many would be inclined to get teaching degrees.

The simple truth is that schools think students aren't capable of learning complex languages, but if kids in the third-world streets of Kerala, India, can learn the alphabets of their tribal language and Hindi, in addition to English, why can't we? When it's our turn to compete for good jobs with other workers everywhere and anywhere, especially China and India, we'll lose.

It's time for language education in America to dust itself off and jump into the 21st century, because American students are being left behind.



ADAM WEINSTEIN  
NEWS EDITOR

By EMILY GRANNIS AND LIZ KANTOR  
EDITOR IN CHIEF AND ARTS EDITOR

So you spend five hours standing, jumping and screaming as loud as you can while you watch your favorite band perform. Ever consider that after those five hours more will be hurting than your throat and legs?

Secondhand smoke, the kind you inhale constantly at venues such as the Agora, kills more than 53,000 Americans every year. According to a major European study, it also increases your chances for respiratory disease by 30 percent and lung cancer by 34 percent. You're welcome to give yourself cancer, but please don't give it to us.

Not only is secondhand smoke hazardous to your health, but it also sends you home feeling like a human ashtray. Recently, after a Bowling for Soup concert at the Odeon, we got home and had to shower at 2 a.m. when all we wanted to do was sleep. Bad enough that we experienced this once. Worse yet, at the same concert, we saw a boy no older than 4 sitting on his dad's shoulders. At first we thought, "How cute!" That is, until we watched the father chain smoke through the whole concert as saw smoke waft up to his son's smiling face.

Too bad we don't live in New York, because if we did, secondhand smoke would not be such a big deal. In 2003, New York

passed a law banning smoking in all public and work places. This means that your night out would not be ruined because of people's decision to smoke, or your birthday dinner out with the 'rents would leave you feeling gross and reeking of smoke.

Many restaurants throughout the United States have slowly become smoke free. At those restaurants yet to make the change, non-smokers sit in the non-smoking section and think they are safe from secondhand smoke. All the while, however, they are inhaling the equivalent of several cigarettes.

There are more than 4,000 chemicals in tobacco smoke, the same smoke you inhale second-hand. Of

these 4,000 chemicals, 43 are known to cause cancer. For example, you will breathe in lead, mercury and DDT, which are poisons outlawed in paint, thermometers and insecticides. You will also inhale arsenic, another poison, and hydrogen cyanide, a gas-chamber poison. It's a great way to thank your lungs for all that they do for

you.

You are not supposed to be able to taste what you breathe. If someone near you is smoking, you can politely ask him to put out his cigarette. If that doesn't work, you can claim you have some condition exacerbated by smoke. Try asthma, pregnancy, heart disease, allergies, or any other condition that sounds as if it could be made worse by smoke.

Everyone knows that smoking kills. So, why would you knowingly subject yourself or your loved ones to this risk? To quote our favorite commercial, "Think, don't smoke!"

### Top five smoke-filled weekend hangouts      Top five smoke-free weekend hangouts

5. The Odeon East Bank of the Flats	5. Shaker Square Cinema Shaker Square
4. Solon Freeway Lanes Solon	4. Gund Arena Cleveland
3. Brennan's Colony Cleveland Heights	3. Arabica University Heights
2. The Grog Shop Cleveland Heights	2. Tommy's Coventry
1. The Agora Cleveland	1. Beachwood Place Mall Beachwood

## Powerful perfumes stink . . . and so does being allergic to them

BY ALIJA JENNINGS  
GRAPHICS EDITOR

I don't think most people our age realize how frequently we encounter perfume and fragrance. I'm not just talking about stuff that inhabits bottles with labels like "passion" or that is named after some rich celebrity. I'm talking about everything that leaves a scent on you after you apply it. Soap, shampoo, lotion, deodorant — you name it. Heck, even your laundry emits an aura of fragrance (at least for those who bother to wash their clothes regularly) that can engulf anyone within close range. I understand why people do it. Your hands were dry, you were sweaty after gym or you wanted to make a good impression by smelling special, so you doused yourself with a bit of fragrance. I get it.

I've never worn perfume in my life. My mother's allergic to it, and, because allergies are often hereditary, I've been lucky enough to share that sensitivity to fragrance. "Don't you like to smell good?" someone once asked me when I explained my condition. Of course I do. It's not as if I don't bathe myself or use lotion. I just know what scents don't affect me, or I choose unscented products. When I tell people that I'm allergic to perfume, I always worry that they think that I'm making it up. Maybe they think that I'm some kind of hypochondriac, an attention seeker. Maybe my teachers think that I'm just trying to get out of class. I even looked up "fragrance sensitivity" online to assure myself that my sensitivity to perfume wasn't just my mind convincing my body of a non-existent condition.

Today I'm that kid in the corner of the classroom that you've never held a conversation with. Even though we're sitting nowhere

near each other, when you open up that bottle of lotion and rub it into your hands the smell fills the class like laughing gas. Soon enough my head starts to cloud up, my throat aches, my nose begins to run and my eyes itch. And even though I know you don't open the bottle purposely to make me sick, I also have no way to shield myself from the invisible cloud of scent released from your lotion.

Worse yet, you don't even have to have a class with me. You could be in class before me and leave your fragrance behind like a vapor trail to choke me as soon as I walk into the room next period. One spritz from that can of Axe is enough. I walk through the halls and come upon a "perfume spot" much like you might walk into a "warm spot" in a kiddie pool. It's not pleasant. I took the pre-PSAT in a perfumed room, and my score showed it. It's not easy taking tests when your head feels like it's stuffed with cotton.

I'm not writing this column just to rant about an allergy. I'm writing to tell you that it exists, that I exist, and that maybe the next time you apply perfume or cologne you can try to restrain yourself and apply it responsibly. Being forced to smell fragrance is like being forced to listen to music you don't like, headache and all. Realize that I'm not

telling you to stop wearing perfume, but only to *please* try your best to apply perfume, cologne and lotion at home. Don't spray cologne into the air for fun. Don't douse your friend as a joke. I've watched two boys on the front lawn dueling with their cans of cologne and it made me sick — literally.

Consider every time you refrain from using scent in class or in the halls an act of kindness to your fellow student. I know I do.

### Should someone be able to smell your perfume or cologne when they are:

- 65% • giving you a hug
  - 15% • talking to you
  - 13% • walking by you
  - 5% • within a five foot radius
  - 2% • in the same room as you
- Scientific poll of 103 students with a margin of error +/- 10 percent.  
Shakerite staff interviewed students.

Dangerous dairy?



Why do people feel the need to leave over-processed liquid cheese from the cafeteria on the staircases? [For that matter, why does the school feel compelled to sell over-processed liquid cheese at all?] It's hard enough to get anywhere without having to avoid people's leftovers. And the ketchup packets are annoying, too, especially if you're wearing shoes that could puncture the bag and spread red ooze on which some poor soul is bound to slip.

Lauren Weiss, junior

## Drink is MIA from fencing room

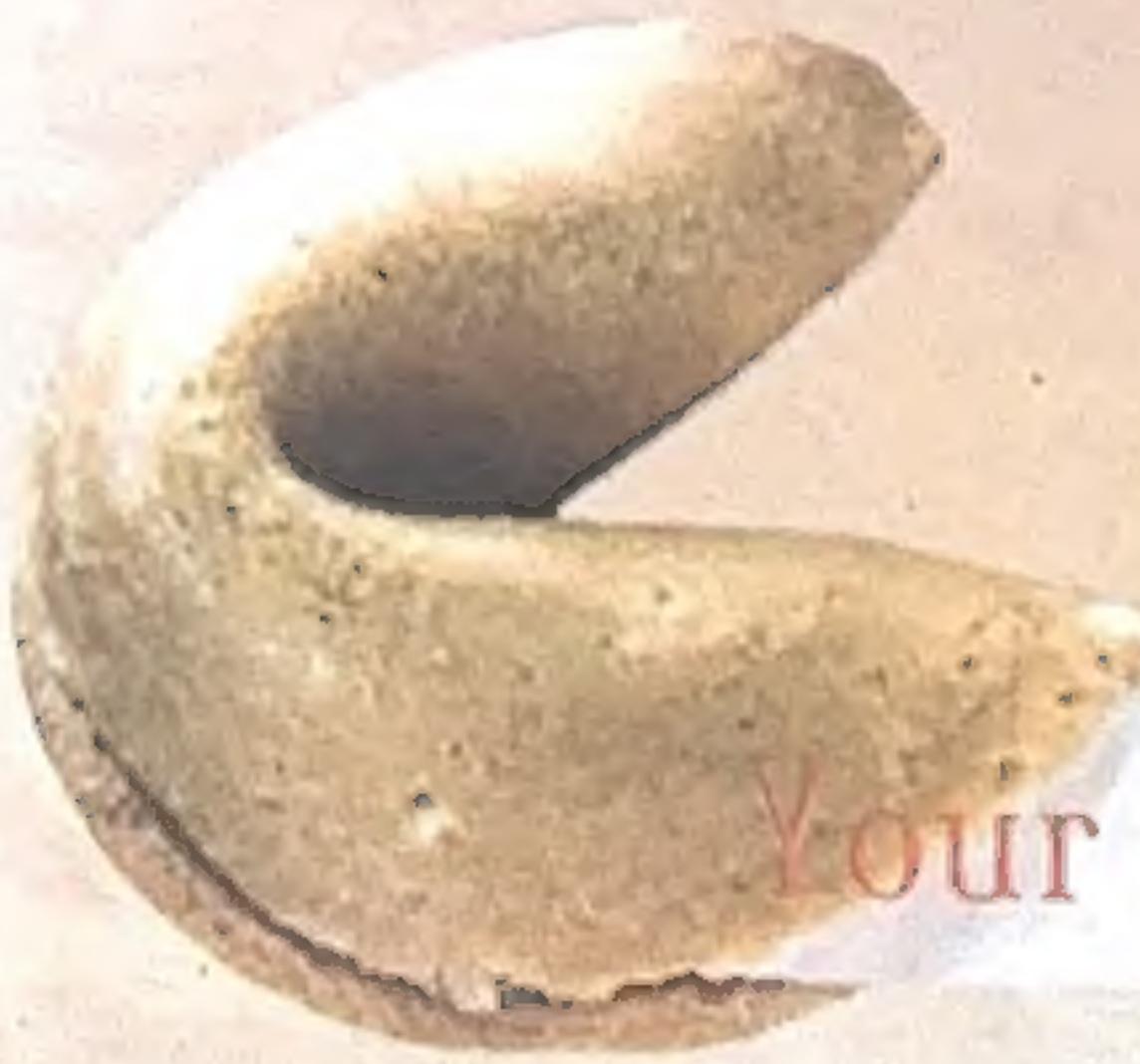
I am irate about the Gatorade machine in the fencing room and how deceiving it is. Why is there a button for Strawberry Ice Gatorade and never any in there? Literally, every time I press it, it says 'sold out.' Was it ever in? Really, if they won't supply Strawberry Ice Gatorade then change the button and stop entertaining my false hopes.

Leah Hitchens, senior

# FOCUS

7

02.28.05



Your Future is crystal clear...

By AMANDA ORR  
FOCUS EDITOR

Some Shaker students don't believe in astrology, tarot or fortune tellers, but when it comes to fortune cookies, the future becomes crystal clear.

"A fortune cookie came true once," sophomore Marissa Williams said. "It said that the following week would be full of good luck, and it was. I found money."

Williams doesn't usually read her horoscope or look at tarot cards, but fortune cookies are a way for her to have insight. Freshman Garron Parks also reads his fortunes.

"One [fortune cookie] said that if I try, it will pay off. I tried my best in my schoolwork, and I got an A

on my test," Parks said.

Senior Kellie Fritz recalled a time in middle school when a fortune cookie came true.

"It said, 'You will find out a secret about one of your friends.' Then I found out that a friend was talking about me behind my back," Fritz said.

According to GoodFortuneCookies.com, the history of fortune cookies dates back to the time when the Mongols occupied China in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. The moon-shaped cookies were used to hide secret messages about overthrowing the Mongols, and were distributed by the revolutionary Chu Yuan Chang, disguised as a priest. The uprising was so successful

that the Ming Dynasty was formed. When Chinese immigrants came to America and worked on the railroad, it was expensive to bake a full cake to take to festivals. Some Chinese people put happy messages inside of biscuits to share at festivals instead. Today, fortune cookies are an American tradition. Junior Diana Wang said that her parents never really talk about fortune cookies.

"I think its more American than Chinese because the last time I was in China, I don't remember their being any," Wang said.

Junior Aaron Ingle does not think that Americanized fortune cookies are offensive to Asian people.

"It's not really offensive. It's culture," Ingle said.

## Have you ever?

- 12% Used tarot cards
- 23% Read your horoscope
- 85% Read fortunes from a fortune cookie
- 20% Played with a ouija board
- 8% Read tea leaves

## Why?

- 75% For fun
- 12% For advice
- 2% Because someone told them to
- 8% Other

“

I don't split poles or pick up pennies that are face

”

Kellie Fritz  
Senior



## How to Read Tea Leaves

1. Drink tea (with leaves). After you are finished and there is only a little tea left, turn the cup upside down for 30 seconds.
2. Look at the bottom of the cup at the leaf formation. What picture does it make? A tree? A flower?
3. Whatever you see may be important to you in the future or it is heavily on your mind.



“

I actually do knock on wood occasionally.

”

Michael Vancuren  
Sophomore

## Very Superstitious

By AMANDA ORR  
FOCUS EDITOR

Some students have superstitions that go well beyond trusting the coy messages folded inside crunchy cookies.

"A superstition is something that causes bad luck," Ingle said.

Fritz and Parks both admit that they are superstitious. Parks said that he never "splits the pole."

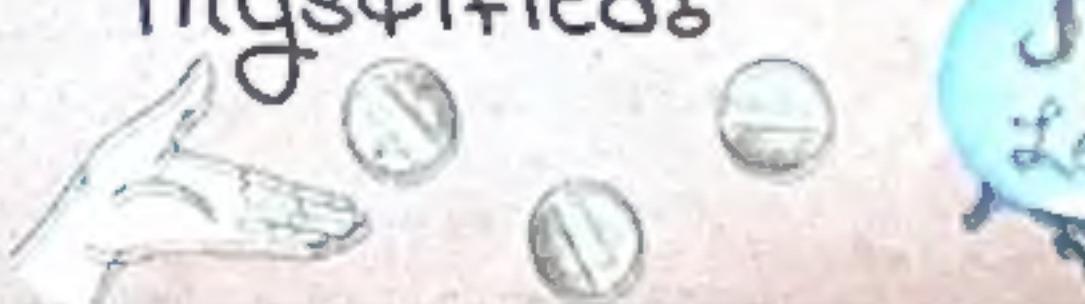
"When you and your friend are walking down the street, you can't break the pole," Parks said, meaning that both pedestrians must walk past the same side of the obstacle. Fritz confessed that she is also wary of pole splitting.

"I don't split poles or pick up pennies that are face down. Maybe a nickel, but never a penny," Fritz said.

If given the chance to know the future for sure, senior Alexander Boom wouldn't take it.

"I like having surprises down the road," Boom said.

Mystified!



## Oh, Cursed!

Good Luck	Bad Luck
If a black cat walks towards you, it brings good fortune.	If you sing before seven, you will cry before eleven.
Split on a new bat before using it for the first time to make it lucky.	Don't step on a crack on a sidewalk or walkway. Step on a crack. Break your mother's back.
If you use the same pencil to take a test that you used for studying for the test, the pencil will remember the answers.	Pulling out a grey hair or white hair will cause ten more to grow in its place.
If you blow out all the candles on your birthday cake with the first puff you will get your wish.	To break a mirror means 7 years bad luck.
Knock three times on wood after mentioning good fortune so evil spirits won't ruin it.	If your nose itches you will soon be kissed by a fool.

Compiled by Nivedi Nanchahal



You know you're a child of the '90s if...  
You can sing the rap to the "Fresh Prince of Belair."  
You still love to play "Oregon Trail."  
You played the game "MASH" (Mansion, Apartment, Shelter, House).

L.A. Gear... Doc Martens... Jelly Shoes  
You remember the CRAZE for, then the BANNING of slap bracelets.  
You still get the urge to say "NOT!" after every sentence.  
You got seriously injured on a Slip-n-Slide.  
You were the bomb with Skip-It.

# up in the

## What we watched

By LEAH HITCHENS

**PULSE EDITOR**  
Only the '90s could bear witness to a scientist who buys an isolated island for breeding dinosaurs, a burnt-out cop who fights against alien attacks in Washington D.C., and a meerkat that is best friends with a warthog ranking in the top five highest box offices hits of its decade. Other movies were brimming with trend-setting pop culture. "Clueless" coined phrases such as 'whatever', 'as if' and 'like'.

Sophomore Dannie Zucker said she loved "Clueless" because she watched it for the first time with her cousin and "wanted to be like the girls in it."

She remembers that her

### Top 5 Movies

5. The Lion King (1994)
4. Independence Day (1996)
3. Jurassic Park (1993)
2. Star Wars-Episode I (1999)
1. Titanic (1997)

**PULSE EDITOR**

The '90s were a time of fabulous fads. From snap bracelets to tamagotchi's to yo-yos, kids had a new favorite toy every week. Admit it, these are still in the back of your closet.

## What we played with

By MIRIAM MOORE

**PULSE EDITOR**  
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**PULSE EDITOR**  
Lions and Tigers and Bears, oh my! Originally created in 1993 by Ty, Beanie Babies didn't take over the world until 1997. These cute cuddles' tags contained names and short poems. Their miniature counterparts, Teenie Beanies, invaded McDonald's Happy Meals in 1997.

Freshman Margaret O'Connor remembers collecting hundreds of beanies with her brother. "My grandmother would buy them, so we had between 200 and 300 Beanie Babies between my brother and I," she said. "I use to trade them and set them up in my room when I was younger. I liked the panda bears the best."

## Beanie Babies

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because they were older and making money. Although Kahn generally has fond memories of the series, she does recall one bad experience when her friend's dad went to pick up the movie for them and accidentally came home with a horror film called "The Babysitter," which ended up scaring the girls "out of their minds" in fourth grade.

## Super Soakers

Hasbro made water "cool" with Super Soakers in the '90s. Water guns and the slip-and-slide were popular summer toys.

Senior Ben Wolpaw planned his water gun fights to make sure they were just right. He would arrive prepared to duke it out with friends with guns in his hands and in his pockets. His arsenal wasn't complete without his backpack gun. "I thought I was so cool because I had the water gun with a backpack," Wolpaw said.

## Skip It

"Just skip it" was the song stuck in the heads of 7 year olds. The Skip It toy, as well as workout equipment, kept kids jumping up and down all afternoon.

Junior Shanice Sullivan participated in Skip It competitions. "I was the best one out there. Me and my friends would compete on weekends, but I would cheat and change the numbers on the counter so that when we started I was already ahead," Sullivan confessed.

## The Babysitter's Club

Kristy, Claudia and Dawn influenced young girls everywhere. Although the series by Ann M. Martin debuted in 1986, it carried over into the '90s.

Senior Katie Kahn was an avid fan of the series. "I had every single book, and everything else, like the dolls, too," Kahn said. She looked up to the babysitters



By MIRIAM MOORE

**PULSE EDITOR**

Yo, homey G, the '90s were da bomb! It was the decade that started with grunge and ended with the Y2K freak out. Kids sprayed their Super Soakers, acted out their favorite "Power Rangers" episode and turned on "Home Improvement" at the end of the day.

With shows like VH1's "I Love the '90s," "I love the '90s Part Deux," and the all '90s weekends on Q104, the '90s are making a comeback.

Senior Clare Malone thinks that the '90s nostalgia is great.

"The music was so much better. It was bad for clothes and good for scandals. It was overall an interesting decade," Malone said. Go, girl.

Nostalgia for the decade has become a mar-

keting ploy with '90s Trivial Pursuit, Hits of the '90s CDs and XM radio stations. It is even attracting an adult crowd with '90s music themed nights at several New York nightclubs.

Although the return to the '90s was inevitable, some skeptics call the nostalgia premature. Robert Thompson, professor of media and pop culture at Syracuse University, stated in a New York Post Article that he felt that it was too soon to remember the '90s. However, he does understand why so many people may want the return. "The '90s seem further away psychologically than chronologically. That decade's like a daydream."

Word.

## What we listened to

By LEAH HITCHENS

**PULSE EDITOR**

An "MMbop" is defined as the smallest measure of time, like a millisecond of a millisecond. Sadly, that's about how long sophomore Dannie Zucker remembered the blonde-haired trio from Oklahoma.

"Hanson was my favorite," she said. "I liked the drummer." The '90s gave 15 short minutes of fame to songs such as "Show Me Love" by Robyn, "The Way" by Fastball, and "Where My Girls At" by 702. But the biggest and brightest pop stars of today were just beginning to emerge during the '90s: Britney Spears, Brandy, Destiny's Child and Usher. Senior Mark Woodson laughed out loud when he remembered Usher's first music video for "My Way."

"Yeah, that was funny," said Woodson, "[Usher] had, like, a battle with—who was it? Oh yeah, Tyrese," he reminisced.

In the early '90s, gangsta rap was popularized by NWA, and continued with artists like Bone Thugs 'N' Harmony and Tupac. In the late '90s, the more pop-oriented Puff Daddy began his quest to revolutionize rap with his songs including "Been Around the World," "Can't Nobody Hold Me Down" and "I'll Be Watching You."

Another way to describe the music of the de-

### Top 5 Songs

5. Creep-TLC
4. Spice Up Your Life-Spice Girls
3. On Bended Knee-Boyz II Men
2. Macarena-Los Del Rio
1. Tubthumping-Chumbawumba

cade: five. It was all about five-member groups \*NSYNC, Backstreet Boys, All-Saints, Spice Girls and, yes, Five.

"When I was in third grade, my friends and I made up a Spice Girls dance. Each one of us was a different Spice Girl," Zucker said.

Both Zucker and senior Halle Morse have memories of getting jiggy to their favorite '90s songs.

"I remember making up a sweet dance to the Tubthumping song by Chumbawumba in fifth-grade on a field trip to the planetarium," Morse said.

According to the Billboard hits, some of the most popular musicians of the decade were ballad singers Whitney Houston, Monica and Mariah Carey. Talk of 1990s music wouldn't be complete without a mention of TLC, Dru Hill, Green Day, Boys II Men, Savage Garden, Alanis Morissette, Maya, 98 Degrees and so many more.

## What we tuned in to

By MIRIAM MOORE

**PULSE EDITOR**

90s television for kids was filled with everything from stupid humor to wholesome family shows. There was Ren and Stimpy and Seventh Heaven and Fresh Prince of Bel Air in between. 90s kids were all about Nickelodeon and its variety shows like All That and Kablaam.

### TGIF

Remember Cory and Topanga on "Boy Meets World?" The "it" show ruled ABC's Thank Goodness It's Friday programming. In this much loved show friends experience the trials and tribulations of being a teenager.

Junior Brady Gilbert still remembers watching "Boy Meets World." "I watched because I liked Cory, Topanga and Sean," Gilbert said.

Senior Ben Wolpaw used to like the show and still likes one character. "Topanga was my first celebrity crush... well, actually... I still have a crush," admitted Wolpaw.

### Rugrats

Starting in 1991, "Rugrats" was Nickelodeon's longest running TV show. With Tommy Pickles leading the toddler crowd, the show was a 13-year success, inspiring two spin-offs and three movies.

# PULSE

&lt;&lt;&lt; The real deal

### Snick

Junior Miriam Mack watched the rats regularly, and considered it one of her favorite shows. "I liked Lil the best. She's cool. She had her own mind," Mack said.

### Snick

Who loves Orange soda? The better question is who didn't love "All That" and "Are You Afraid of the Dark?" These two hit shows aired on Saturday nights as a part of Nickelodeon's Snick.

Sophomore Laura Stern recalls watching Snick with her sister, particularly "All That." Their favorite skit on the show was Saggin', Baggin' Barry. "He wore huge pants and would pull stuff out. We thought it was hilarious," Stern said.



"Are You Afraid of the Dark?" which aired for seven years, was based on the "Midnight Society" which met in the woods and told spooky stories starting in the 1930s.

Junior Jeremy Lassiter remembers the show well. "It was scary, but I liked it," Lassiter said.

# Conservatives target MTV 'smut'

BY LEAH HITCHENS  
PULSE EDITOR

Some parents are fed up.

"MTV is selling smut to our kids," stated the Parents Television Council. The PTC, a conservative advocacy group that focuses on media decency issues, published a report Feb. 8 attacking the cable channel and its programming.

According to the PTC report, MTV viewers, who are mostly teenagers, see and hear far more sex, violence and foul language than people who watch 10 to 11 p.m. broadcasts. The report, "MTV Smut Peddlers: Targeting Kids With Sex, Drugs and Alcohol," asserts that MTV airs on average nine sexual scenes an hour throughout the day compared to five sexual scenes from 10 to 11 p.m.

In a Feb. 11 Los Angeles Times article, MTV spokeswoman Jeannie Kendas was quoted calling the report unfair and inaccurate, noting that the network has received Emmy awards for programs such as "Fight for your Rights," focusing on discrimination and sexual health, and "Chose or Lose," a campaign to get young voters to participate in elections.

"A lot was taken out of context," she told the Times, also declaring that the PTC "unfairly and inaccurately painted MTV with the brush of irresponsibility around sex and violent content."

In the 2001 season of MTV's "The Real World," the Las Vegas cast was greeted with a giant bowl of condoms.

"Programs like 'The Real World' are systematically robbing children of their innocence while encouraging them to en-



Amy Silver • THE SHAKERITE

gage in risky, sometimes life-threatening behaviors," stated the PTC website, parentsTV.org.

Dissenters of the PTC's opinion believe that there should be no censorship substitute for parental rules.

Shaker mother Julie Langhinrichs is against censorship as an option.

"Censoring MTV leads to the censorship of television and books, and where does it stop?"

Along with the PTC, another Anti-MTV group, I Don't Want My MTV, takes a moral approach in contesting the network. The website, idontwantmymtv.com, is a project of Stand True Ministries.

The site focuses on the fact that MTV is sponsored by the largest abortion provider in America and claims that MTV has a toll-free number to Planned Parenthood to help children get abortions "behind their parents' backs."

There is no evidence that MTV re-

ceives financial donations from Planned Parenthood. Additionally, the shows that Planned Parenthood sponsors are those that have received Emmys and other awards of excellence.

On average, 73 percent of boys and 79 percent of girls ages 12 to 19 tune into MTV daily for more than six hours a week.

Langhinrichs believes the job of regulating a child's TV hours belongs to parents. "If you're not happy with it, turn off the television. The parents are responsible," she said. Langhinrichs also said that her son, Nathan, doesn't watch MTV because the family has only one TV set.

"It's in a family area," she said, "so he knows that whatever he is watching has to be something the family can watch."

"We reflect young people's culture in responsible ways," MTV spokeswoman Kendas told the Los Angeles Times. She also called the research biased because the data was collected in March when MTV airs its Spring Break Specials.

In 2004, MTV came under fire from the Federal Communication Commission because the network sponsored the CBS Super Bowl XXVIII halftime show during

which Janet Jackson exposed her breast. Since then advocacy groups have been scrutinizing every moment of MTV's airtime, classifying the station as "sexually explicit" and obscene.

According to FCC guidelines, "to be obscene, material must meet a three-prong test: An average person, applying contemporary community standards, must find that the material, as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; the material must depict or describe, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by applicable law; and the material, taken as a whole, must lack serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value." As a cable channel, however, MTV is not accountable to the general FCC indecency rules.

The PTC urges families who subscribe to cable to opt out of certain channels in their cable package, insisting that the "incessant sleaze on MTV presents the most compelling case yet for consumer cable choice."

This option, known as a la carte programming, helps consumers avoid paying for unwanted channels. Cable industries largely oppose this option.

"It blows up the economic model that has led to the creation of the very channels that appeal to children, families and religious audiences," said Brian Dietz, a spokesman for the National Cable and Telecommunications Association.

Currently, the system of channel packages is categorized into basic and expanded basic. MTV is included in many basic cable packages.

## Long lunch lines leave little time for eating

FROM LUNCH PAGE 1

do not suggest time spent in lunch lines is waning.

"My suggestion is a longer lunch period and just paying for the food without the computer system," senior Terence Calloway said. "Why do we need the computer system if we're just paying with cash? If we continue with the way things are going, students will still have to run down the hall to the cafeteria and [be] late coming to class after lunch," he said.

English teacher Cathy Lawlor said students arriving late to class after lunch has not been a problem this year.

"In past years, it had become a slight issue. If I know the student is being honest, I would allow him or her to finish [lunch] outside of the door," Lawlor added. "I think the best solution is to brown-bag it. I know it can be hard to get through

those crowded lines."

Sophomore Katie Mentzer packs her lunch instead of dealing with lunch-line drama.

"Lunch food is gross anyway. The lines are way too long, and it's not worth it," she said.

Students can buy food from eight vending machines or the snack bar, which offers pretzels, nachos and smoothies. Cooked items, such as hamburgers, chicken nuggets and fries are available only in the main lines.

"We try to split up the choices in regards to buying food for lunch," said Victor Ferrell, head of security. "There is the snack bar, vending ma-

chines, and the senior lounge for the seniors," he said. "I think the lunch period does offer enough time. If each student ate [during] the lunch period they were assigned, instead of dipping into other lunch periods, the lunch line would be shorter and students would have more time to eat."

Cafeteria staff member, Thelma Bailey, said, "I don't have any ideas about how to make the lines shorter, but the cashiers can only do so much."

Assistant Principal Lisa Howell, who is new to Shaker this year has noticed problems with the lunch lines as well.



Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

"Although I am a new staff member here at Shaker, I did notice the beginning of the school year went a lot smoother. More students, then, were bringing their ID cards to school. That's the key to a quick exit from the lunch line."

**STUDENTS WAIT**  
IN the lunch line  
in the cafeteria  
during fourth  
period.

"Guess who sniffed Will's butt."  
1/12/05

**Heard  
in the  
Halls**

Overheard and out  
of context

"And he shall henceforth be known as my nigga."  
2/02/05

"I can't kick it . . . I'm wearing stilettos."  
2/15/05

"I text messaged him my decree."  
2/15/05

Person 1: "It smells like booty."  
Person 2: "Mmm . . . It smells good."  
2/11/05

"We're going back to the ghetto where we can walk around outside in our pajamas all night."  
2/15/05

"Y'all got some bad grammar up in here."  
1/26/05

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## Film not "In Good Company"

Imagine my excitement when the sexy Topher Grace, my favorite actor from "That '70s Show," was due to star as Dennis Quaid's young boss in the film "In Good Company." I arrived at the empty theater smiling in anticipation of an original and funny story, but left bitterly after watching cliché after cliché. The ro-



mance between Grace and the newly popular actress Scarlett Johansson barely even fizzled, and the two decided to end their relationship after barely one scene. In the end, I realized that even if life is like a box of chocolates, no one needs to sit through an hour and a half of bad chocolate.

1 out of 4 stars Aviva Anel

## Voting takes center stage at Sankofa

- Students look to Joe Houser for inspiration

“

I hope we can become more united. . . not looking at someone as black or white, girl or boy. I see us looking at each other as people.

”

Vicky Boyd  
Sankofa leader

“ [Joe Houser] is the best man for the job. There's no other like him.

”

Kristen Moore  
Sankofa leader

**FROM SANKOFA, PAGE 1**

Junior Khristen Moore, one of the production's student leaders, said they chose the theme because voting is a crucial step to uniting people.

"Blacks were not able to vote in the past, and many are still not voting."

Junior Vicky Boyd, another student leader, agreed that voting plays an important role in African-American history.

"Because of the election, rappers and singers are trying to get blacks to step up and vote. It really is a crucial part of our history," she emphasized.

African-American males were granted the right to vote in 1870 with the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment. However, black voters have been disenfranchised through poll taxes and literacy tests, as well as registration restrictions. In fact, the amendment's voting guarantee did not apply in all states until the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Sankofa explores the actions of groups such as CORE and SCLC. The Twenty-fourth Amendment abolished the poll tax, opening doors for African-American voters everywhere. However, in the 2000 presidential election, only 56.8 percent of African-American citizens of voting age cast a ballot.

The message to exercise voting power is conveyed through the singing, acting and dancing talents of 65 students. The seven student leaders write, direct and choreograph the show.

The 2005 student leaders are Moore, Boyd, Chloe Combs, Aaron Patterson, Makeda Farley, Jessica Fain and Stephanie Russ.

Houser selects the student leaders after each submits a packet suggesting a theme and ideas to execute it in the production. Each leader oversees a specific area of the production such as singing, acting or dancing. The leaders also select cast



Steve Aviram • THE SHAKERITE

members through an audition process.

Participants devote about 10 to 15 hours a week to the show.

Boyd became involved with Sankofa as a sophomore and auditioned for the position of leader this year.

"What Mr. Houser was doing had an impact on me. It never hurts to try, even if you get shut down."

Moore, a three-year participant, continues to be influenced by Houser's dedication.

"He's the best man for the job. There's no other like him."

Houser has served as adviser for the past four years. Sankofa originated after a group of students decided that African American History Month needed a celebratory event. Throughout Houser's tenure as adviser, the annual performance has earned positive reactions from students and teachers.

Houser, Boyd and Moore share

future visions for Sankofa that reach beyond the high school.

"The school community and the Shaker community as a whole have received Sankofa very well. I also have been approached by other schools who want the performances done at their school and schools that want information about doing their own Sankofa production at their school," Houser said in an email interview.

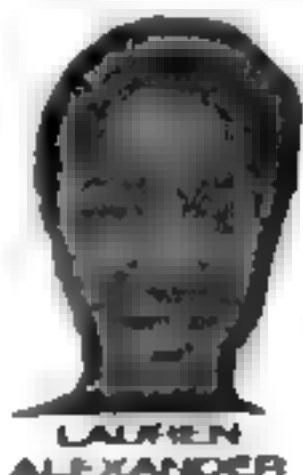
Boyd would like to see Shaker continue to improve the performance and share it with others.

"I think that every year it keeps getting better and better. Hopefully we'll take the play to churches and schools so that they may eventually start their own."

Moore hopes that the message reaches students at Shaker. "I hope we can become more united . . . not looking at someone as black or white, girl or boy. I see us looking at each other as just people."

## Music of our lives

It had been a long day. A long, cold day. Depressed by the mounting piles of snow and the never-ending flow of assignments, I felt hopeless. As I sank deep into the couch surrounded by a sea of papers, I thought of the perfect solution. I slid in the dusty Beck CD that had been thrown in the corner, and suddenly my soul melted into a puddle collecting in the bottom of my belly.



LAUREN ALEXANDER

Was it Beck's voice? His lyrics — so far distanced from my emotional trauma? The silly twang in his voice? I wasn't quite sure, but at that point, it didn't matter. It felt amazing to submerge my soul in music — words and sounds that let me drift into a state of comfort and security. It's perplexing how quickly one song can turn around a mood. Given the right album, a dreary Sunday morning can easily turn into a palate of inspiration. If music can manipulate our emotions so effortlessly, I wonder how it can affect the rest of our lives in ways we might not even realize.

I've come to realize that Dick Clark was right when he said music is the soundtrack of our lives. After little sleep, I'd rather not deal with the pounding bass and thrashing guitars. I'd prefer waking up at a delicate hour each morning by easing into the day with the appropriate music. The morning after a long, laborious night needs a soothing lullaby from Bjork or Radiohead. It tends to put me in a relaxed yet semi-dazed state for the duration of the morning, which certainly surpasses crankiness.

I've come to realize that Dick Clark was right when he said music is the soundtrack of our lives.

Of course,

there are times when I wake up and need the extra energy to make it through the day, and Stephen Malkmus' "Pig Lib" never fails to put me in the right mood. No matter where I am or what I'm doing, his music puts me in a positive place where it's hard to break free. If I'm struggling through the day I can think back to his music and feel centered knowing that something so pure, genuine and untouched by negativity is waiting for me in my CD player.

Whether I realize it at that moment or not, the music I listen to every day affects my attitude toward daily activities or even toward life in general. The ways we think and act are all in some small way or another affected by the music we listen to. Whether it's a positive message that promotes change and progression or simply a sad, heart-breaking melody, we react to the words with sincerity. I feel it's important to embrace the powerful effect music has over all of us because doing so will only enhance the richness of our lives.

## Reel Deal

### Black History Month must-see DVDs

"Ray"	The story of Ray Charles' life as a pioneering blind musician
"Antwone Fisher"	True story of a young man coping with childhood abuse
"Remember the Titans"	Football team bonds during the first year as an integrated high school
"Color of Friendship"	White South African girl lives with a black family during apartheid
"Roots"	Alex Haley's ancestral history from enslavement to liberation

### Movie quote of the month

*"This moment is for Dorothy Dandridge, Lena Horne, Diahann Carroll. It's for the women that stand beside me - Jada Pinkett, Angela Bassett and it's for every nameless, faceless woman of colour that now has a chance because this door tonight has been opened." Halle Berry, 2002 Academy Award acceptance speech.*



### "Hotel Rwanda" review

"Hotel Rwanda" is the powerful, true story of the 1994 Rwandan slaughter of Tutsis. The movie focuses on Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel owner who bravely harbors more than 1,000 refugees. Don Cheadle plays the role of Rusesabagina expertly, lending simple elegance to his mighty hero. The movie also focuses on the world's ignorance to the massacre, a fact that is guaranteed to make any viewer feel guilty. Overall, Hotel Rwanda is an emotional trip, likely to induce tears in the audience.

4 out of 4 stars

# Dance isn't always pretty

Dancers tough the tutu

By LAURA CHERNIN

Arts Co-Editor

It took me a week to reach Senior Liz Chestang. Eight, nine, ten p.m. on a school night, and she still wasn't home. "She's at dance class," the voice on the other line would say. I recalled her being in at least two of my AP classes during high school, and wondered, "How does she do all this? Who would be out dancing, of all things, until ten p.m. on school night?"

**It's an art form; you have to make it look easy.**

Liz Chestang  
Senior

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and Rock School for several summers, and now takes ballet, modern dance and hip-hop at Cleveland City Dance, as well as jazz and tap at Champion Cheer and Dance. Chestang spends about 15 hours a week training and dancing.

"It's tiring and it takes a lot of time," he said, comparing it to a sport, which usually isn't "all year round."

There are many physical restraints and demands as well. "You have to have perfect proportions," said Chestang. Perfection, it seems, all the way down to your toes... "Flexibility, turnout, you have to have a certain kind of shape in the feet."

**People don't understand that you have to have strength in the muscles in your feet.**

Becky Siegel  
Senior

Senior Julie Broadbent, who has been dancing since freshman year, is the president of Modern Dance Club and faces challenges similar to Chestang's, but has an optimistic outlook.

"It doesn't matter what body type you have, or who you are," Broadbent said.

Broadbent has a busy schedule, often fitting in ice-skating before



Leah Hutchens • THE SHAKERITE

**SENIOR LIZ CHESTANG** dances during ballet class at Cleveland City Dance, often late into the night. Chestang plans to continue dancing after high school.

school, modern dance club after school, a short dinner, followed by dance classes at Shaker Dance Academy, and little to no time for homework. On top of this, Broadbent faces stereotyping. "It's typically an African American cultural experience," Broadbent said. "I'm not used to moving in such a way."

Junior Maddy Weinland, who also takes classes at Shaker Dance Academy, wants to prove the idea "that white girls can't take hip-hop" untrue. "Know you're as good as everybody else," Weinland suggested.

For as graceful and simple as ballet and other dancing might seem, it's not as easy as it looks. "People don't understand that you have to have strength in the muscles in your feet," senior Becky Siegel said. Siegel has taken dance at The Ballet Academy for 13 years. "They don't think it's a

workout."

When the young ballerinas don their pointe shoes, which allow them to dance on their toes, the difficulty is taken to another level. "Once you get up there, you have to learn how to dance up there," Siegel said.

Although dance is difficult, it might seem very simple and painless to non-dancers. "You can't make it look like it's hard," said Chestang. "It's an art form; you have to make it look easy."

"Maybe you train harder than a lot of sports, but people don't believe that," Weinland said.

Joining a company is very difficult and extremely competitive. Despite all this discouragement, many plan to continue dance after high school.

"If I feel confident enough, I'll go into a company," Chestang said. Otherwise, she plans to double major in college with dance, and possibly choreograph or direct a dance troupe.

Weinland feels similar, considering a dance minor at college. "I can't imagine my life without dance," she said.

And as for those of you who want to try on a pair of dancing shoes for the first time?

"It's possible if you set your mind to it," Siegel said. "Take the classes that you want to, and if you start at this age you're not going to be a prima ballerina, but it's possible to dance recreationally."

According to Weinland, the key is confidence.

"You have to know that you are beautiful and not care what people think about you," she said.

## Breakdown of the pointe shoe

### The toe

Lamb's wool, tissues, gel-like pads and old socks are often used to cushion the feet inside the shoe.



**Ribbons**  
Not criss-crossed up the leg! They are crossed once in front and tied at the ankle.

**The Shank**  
Supports the arch of the foot. When it's "broken in," it's time to get a new pair.

## True confessions of a pointe shoe victim

By LENA NEWMAN  
Staff Reporter



Newman

Suffering for your art form has long been the mantra of the ballet world, and under the pink satin ribbons and pointe shoes pain abounds. When a minor blister turned into a sprained toe before a solo dance, I knew it was time for me to suffer. The only option: numb my big toe -- a painful process. With my toe slathered in Oragel and my pointe shoe on my non-injured foot, I started stomping on my big toe, beating the feeling out of it. I swaddled it in lamb's wool and Band-Aids and shoved it into my shoe. After my solo, the pain returned.

## Don't pick fights with men in tights

By LAURA CHERNIN  
Arts Co-Editor

"Teach me," sophomore Nick Hardaway said. And so Hardaway's passion for dance began. Hardaway was in fifth grade when he entered classes, and he now takes hip-hop classes at Studio J.

After a hard week, Hardaway enjoys letting loose when he dances. "It's a stress reliever," he said.

However, Hardaway and many other young men face disapproval from their peers for practicing a "more feminine" art form. "Males don't think it's so cool," Hardaway said.

But, "there is nothing written that says a boy should play sports."

Former Shaker student Frank Taylor, who was co-president of Modern Dance Club, readily opposes the stereotyping.

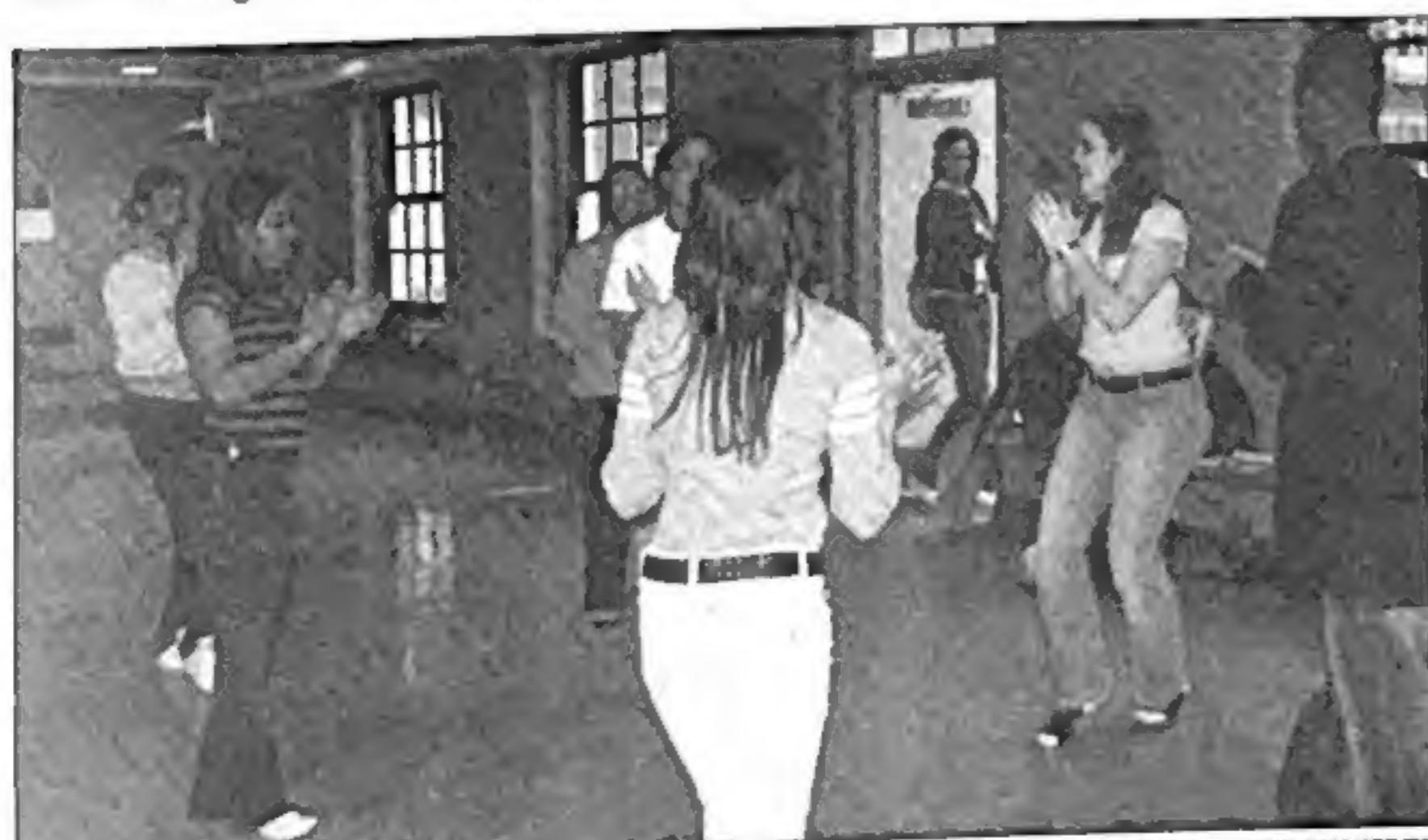
"I'm just trying to make people believe that not only girls can dance, but guys can dance, too."

Taylor has been dancing for three and a half years, and performs mainly hip-hop, but has dabbled in everything from African dance to swing dance to breakdancing.

"I was at a party, and people thought I could actually dance," Taylor said. So he decided to start attending classes.

Both Hardaway and Taylor have plans for a future with dance. Hardaway wants to be an actor, and hopes to incorporate his lessons in dance into his performing career.

"I hope to be in at least one [music] video by the time I'm 21," Taylor said.

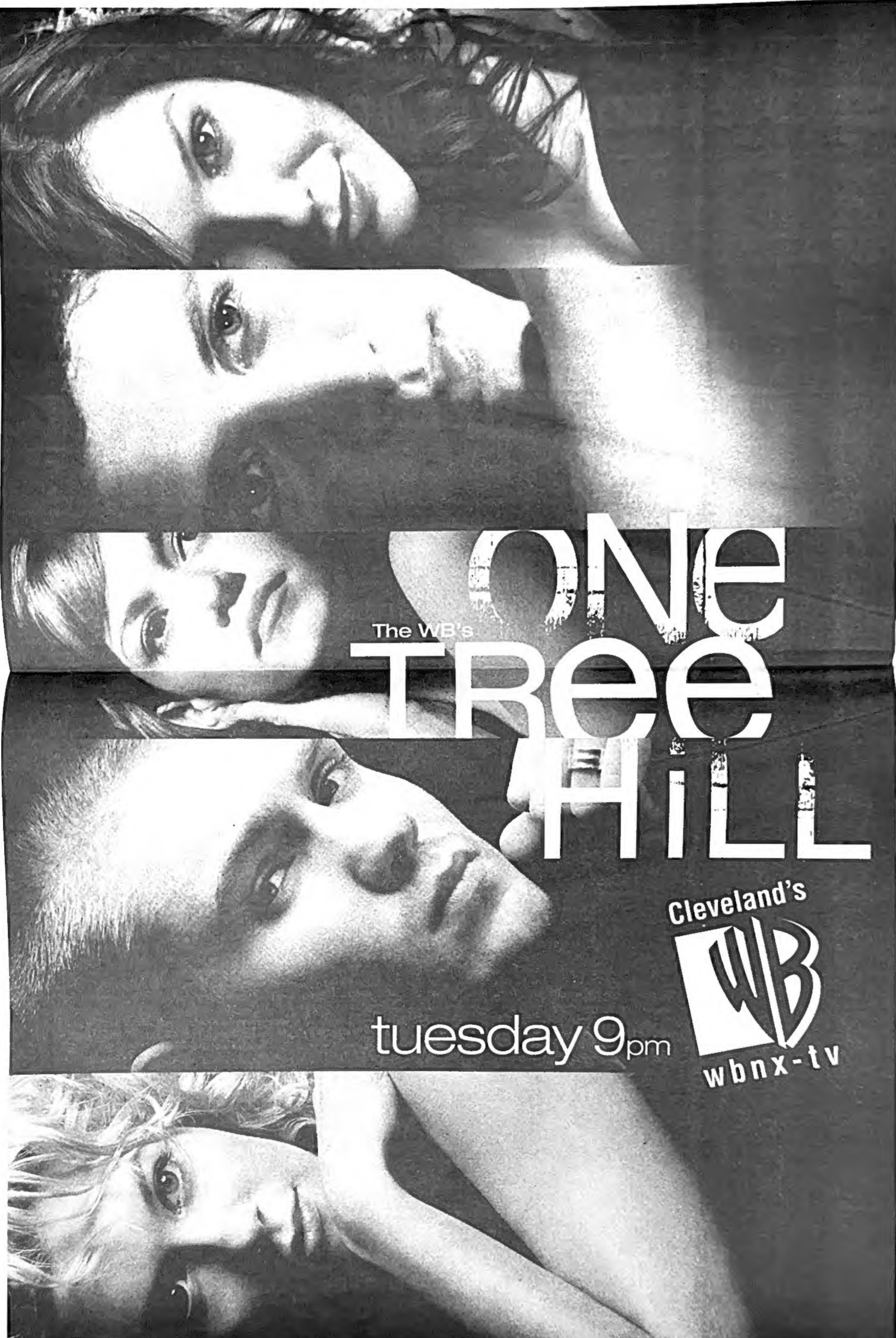


Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE

**JULIE BROADBENT LEADS** Modern Dance Club after school in the dance room. Broadbent finds time in her busy schedule to figure skate, attend Modern Dance Club and take dance classes at the Shaker Dance Academy.



Hilin Hazelwood • THE SHAKERITE  
**SOPHMORE NICK HARDAWAY** practices hip-hop moves in the Dance Room



The WB's  
**One  
Tree  
Hill**

tuesday 9pm



# 500th win captures milestone, division

FROM HOCKEY PAGE 16

said. "It's the teams that won the games."

Bartley has won three state titles and ten Baron Cups, the most by any Ohio coach. Players are amazed by his success.

"It was unexpected. It's one of the greatest accomplishments," senior Matt Koletsky said.

The Raiders (21-7) were nevertheless stymied by Strongsville in the first round of the Baron Cup Tournament, 5-1 on Feb. 1. Shaker apparently took the loss as a wake-up call and bounced back in the first two rounds of the state playoffs with wins against Garfield Heights 12-0 Feb. 12, Walsh Jesuit 9-0 Feb. 16 and Mentor 8-2 Feb. 22.

"We're determined to prove ourselves after losing to Strongsville," Ciepluch said.

McFarlane echoed his teammate's approach to the playoffs, saying they "know we can't take any team lightly."

Bartley has enjoyed working with the class of 2005 for the last four years.

"They've been a great group to coach," he said. "They've been a great group to be around."

Though many of the starters will graduate in June, senior Jeff Musser believes the Raiders will build upon their success next season.

"They're going to have a chance for guys who didn't play this year to step up and be leaders," he said.



David O'Connell • THE SHAKERITE

**COACH MIKE BARTLEY** and the Raider bench watch as Shaker defeats Walsh Jesuit Feb. 16. Bartley, who has coached Shaker hockey for 29 years, reached the milestone of 500 wins Jan. 29 against University School and is the first Ohio hockey coach to achieve 500 victories.

## Sports Desk

### Crew takes four golds at ergattas

The crew team collected seven medals at two February ergattas, two-kilometer races staged on rowing machines called ergometers. Senior Amanda Fulwood placed first and senior Jessica Walker placed third among varsity open weights at the Pittsburgh Indoor Sprints Feb. 5. Shaker seniors Fulwood, Grace Lynch and Katie McGill swept the varsity open weight division at the Hammer Erg at John Carroll University Feb. 13. The Raiders also won gold in the varsity light-weight race and in the novice division with sophomore Carrie Coverdale. "The team's doing really well this year," said McGill. "I'm excited about the spring season. I think we will do very well—gold medals."

### Losing season has an upside

The men's basketball team is facing its first losing season since 1994 with a 7-12 record at press time. However, coach Bob Wonson said he has enjoyed the season because the players have progressed dramatically, especially on defense. He said the team hopes to advance as far as possible in tournament play. "When you wanna lose, you wanna lose against someone who's better than you, not someone who's as good as you," he said. "There are 813 boys' basketball teams, and only four are gonna advance." Ten of the 12 varsity team members will return next year, including juniors Chris Bess and A.J. Clair, whom Wonson noted as team leaders. Wonson said junior Mikese Morse and sophomore Nicolas Winbush have also been standout players.

Meagan Steiner

## INVASIVE BEHAVIOR



Brian Gamm • THE SHAKERITE

**SENIOR CANDICE CREWS** goes for the layup against a Normandy defender. The Raiders defeated the Invaders Feb. 9 during parents' night, when managers and players were recognized with their parents for the last regular-season game.

## It's the game, not the gear

### • Athletes should wear uniforms, not fashion statements

When did athletes start caring more about how they look on the field than how they perform during the game?

It's true that some Shaker uniforms are overused. Some athletes have to wear shorts tighter than NBA veteran John Stockton's. It seems as if everyone wants new jerseys. Teams are even getting their names printed on the back of their uniforms. Has everyone forgotten that the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the one on the back?

To stay in style, Raiders are also buying top brands such as Under Armour and wearing colors other than red and white as their uniforms' dominant color. I have no problem with uniforms using other colors to break up the monotonous red and white, but it seems athletes are getting tired of sporting school colors.

DAVID O'CONNELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

I'll wear a uniform as long as it has Shaker written on the front and a number on the back. Every other detail doesn't matter. You may be in the wrong activity if you prepare for games like you're preparing for a beauty pageant.

Appreciate the jerseys you are wearing, even if you're a JV athlete wearing team jerseys from the '80s filled with holes, bloodstains and a stubborn, strange odor that won't come out in the wash.

Cleveland Public Schools may lose their sports programs altogether due to lack of funding. Their athletes are worrying about playing, not how they look.

Next time you complain about how old the jerseys are, think about the family who is forced to transfer schools to even have the opportunity to play sports or think about the kids who won't have the opportunity to play sports again.

There are teams in Ohio that don't have jerseys provided by their schools. These athletes appreciate the chance to play sports every day, with our without fresh-scented uniforms and Under Armour. The last thing on their minds is the label on their sweatpants or their jersey's unique color scheme.

Let's do the same and focus on our game, not our gear.

## Demand, skill-level factors in changing sports

FROM CHANGE SPORTS PAGE 16

Schiller explained that swimming is an easy sport to join because there are no specific skills required.

"It's not an easy sport, it's just that there's not a lot of rules. I guess you go and you practice every day and you just keep getting better and better. Like I can't just go pick up lacrosse," she said.

Peterson said that new upperclassman teammates are more aware of the time commitment needed after talking with friends who already swim.

"They find out very quickly that it's a very demanding sport and practice schedule," Peterson said. "They've done very well. They get in some of the best shape of their life."

Kushner and Rachel Oscar are the only sophomores new to the swim team. Oscar played basketball from third to eighth grade at Solomon Schechter Day School but stopped when she came to Shaker as a freshman because "the way we played at Schechter wasn't real... I mean at the half the score would be like 2-0."

Oscar hadn't expected to try a new sport in high school, but missed being active, doing something aside from schoolwork and the support of a team. She chose swimming because she knew others on the team "and just because

it was something I was capable of doing... it was always something I'd like to do but I had never done it competitively."

While other athletes took on new sports to fill inactive seasons, senior Becca Heide attempted the fall sports of field hockey and cross-country simultaneously as a sophomore. Heide participated in both fall sports' pre-seasons and one cross country meet before the pressure of two varsity teams competing for her time and additional school activities drove her to play only field hockey.

"It was partly to see if I could do it and see how well I could do," Heide said, advising anyone considering two sports in the same season to discuss it with both coaches ahead of time.

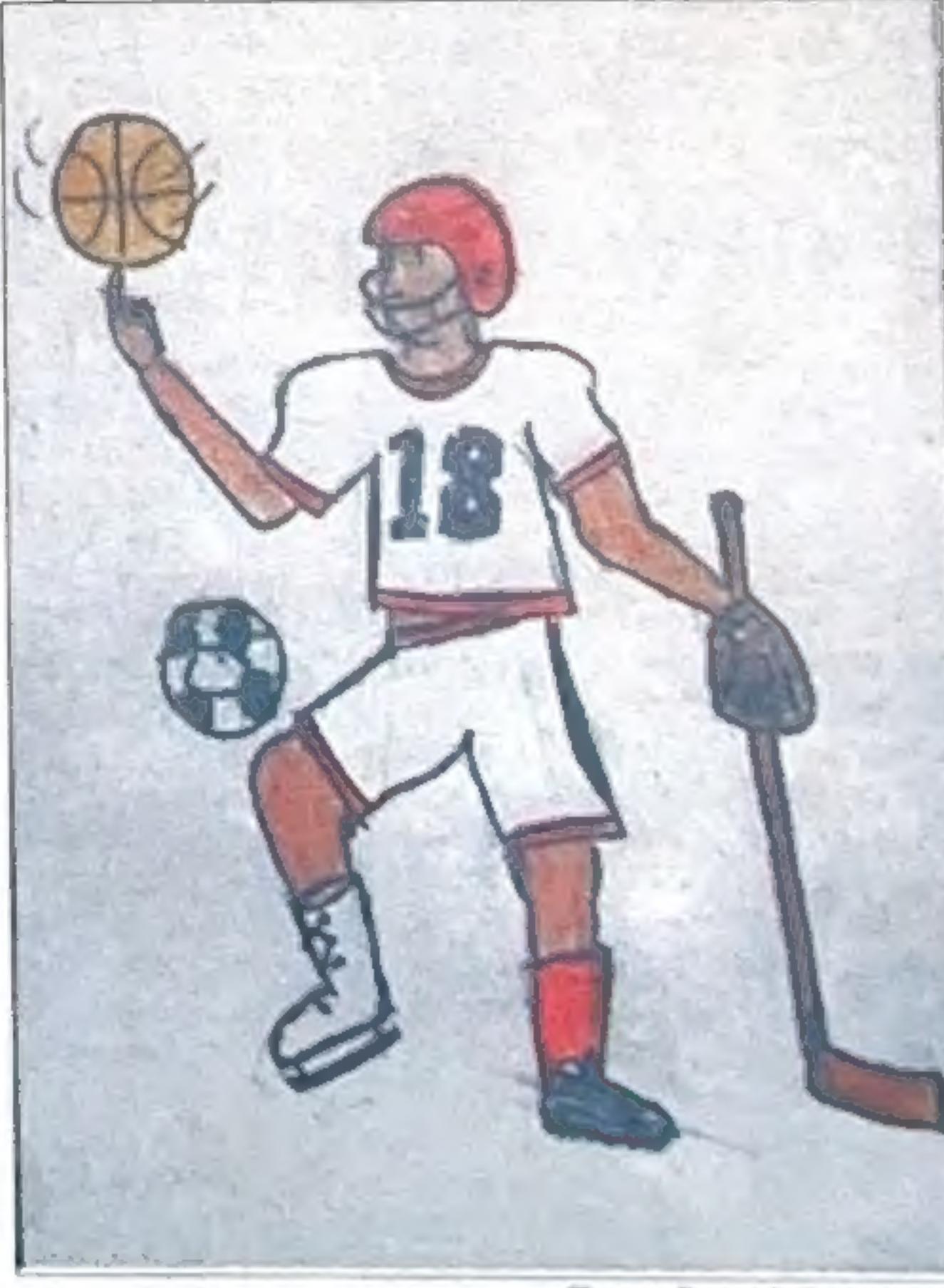
Of all the athletes interviewed, only Heide and Shatten expressed definite interest in trying more new sports. "I would never want to take on lots of sports again in a serious way, but for fun, definitely," Heide said.

Shatten is interested in less common sports offered by colleges like curling and rugby.

"[Trying new sports] definitely lets me keep an open mind and I learned that it's important to be versatile," Shatten said. "I like trying new things because you never know what you're gonna be good at unless you try it."

Marguerite Moore contributed to this story

66  
[It] definitely lets me keep an open mind.  
99

Julia Shatten  
Junior

Thomas Bestwick • THE SHAKERITE



# Sports

LOOK MA, ONE WHEEL

Mountain unicycling, called MUUni, is the year-round sport of riding on uneven, off-road terrain. It requires precision and endurance and can be done wherever mountain biking can. Because unicycles are direct-drive vehicles, riders can't coast and must pedal constantly, both uphill and downhill. According to canadiancontent.net, MUUni is very safe but "there is potential, although it is remote," of injury while mountain unicycling.

16  
02.28.05

## Swimmers, coach rebuilding legacy

By MARGUERITE MOORE  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Few coaching assignments are more intimidating than taking over a program after a legend retires.

Just ask Eric Peterson.

Now in his third year as head swimming coach, Peterson has overcome the daunting task of replacing Ernest Welsch, who put Shaker swimming on the map during a 23-year career.

Peterson replaced Welsch in 2002, becoming the new head coach of both the men's and women's teams. He also stepped into the shoes of a coach whose last overall records were 10-0 for women and 8-1 for men. During his career, Welsch had 190 combined consecutive wins with the men and women's teams.

"It was definitely a challenge to follow in the footsteps of someone that has been that successful," Peterson said. "Obviously they missed Mr. Welsch and his style of coaching. But we were able to come to a new understanding of having a

new coach and a new style."

During Peterson's first year with Shaker, the overall record was 8-2 for men and 5-3 for women. At press time, the men's overall record was 7-2 and 6-1 in the LEL, while the women's squad was 5-4 overall and 5-2 in the LEL. Although these are not the records that Welsch acquired during his years with the team, Peterson's goal is to return to that level of excellence.

"We're a building team," senior Clare Malone said. "[Peterson] took over a swimming dynasty. He's handled it very well. He can deal with losses that Shaker's not traditionally used to in a professional manner."

Peterson plans to continue improving the team through hard work during the season and by encouraging swimmers to train year-round with the pre and post-season Shaker Sharks program.

"We have a very strong swimming tradition and we want to continue that tradition," he said.

Junior Jason Immerman has seen an in-



Dan Snider • THE SHAKERITE  
DURING PRACTICE AT the Woodbury pool Feb. 16, Rachel Oscar, a sophomore, swims freestyle.

crease in intensity this year.

"The coach has gotten a lot stricter this year. We train harder and the team has gotten a lot better because of it," he said.

Malone, who was a freshman during Welsch's last year, noted differences in two coaches' training methods, saying

that Welsch focused on sprints, while Peterson focuses on longer sets.

As the team has continued rebuilding, they have also grown closer.

"When I was a freshman, there was a hierarchy with the older swimmers, who were often the faster swimmers," senior Emily Rosenberg said. "We didn't always get along [and we weren't] always respected on the same level." She said that this has changed, noting that younger swimmers are

now some of the fastest.

While swimming is known as an individual sport, team activities are essential.

"If someone's cheering for you, you go a lot faster because you're pumped. With team bonding . . . people cheer more," Immerman said.

## Red North belongs to the

By DAVID O'CONNELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

**T**hink public school hockey teams don't stand a chance against private schools? Try telling that to the Raider squad, which clinched the Red North Division by defeating University School 2-1 Jan. 29.

Shaker is the only public school in the five-team Red North Division and has won its first division title since '96-'97 season. While private schools have the advantage of drawing students from far and wide, Shaker hockey players play together for years through the Shaker Youth Hockey League.

"Everyone has been together for so long," senior captain Andrew McFarlane said. "You can't teach that at other schools."

This year's team includes 12 seniors, compared to just three seniors from the class of 2004.

"Pretty much the whole team is the senior class," senior Mike Ciepluch said. "We have a tremendous amount of experience playing hockey for such a long time together."

Head coach Mike Bartley, who has coached for 29 years with Shaker, reached a milestone of 500 victories Jan. 29 against US. Bartley didn't realize he was the first Ohio coach to achieve the feat until informed by a reporter.

"It wasn't as big a deal to me as it had been to other athletes," Bartley said.

SEE HOCKEY PAGE 15



SENIOR AVERY SEARS faces off against a Walsh player Feb. 16 at Kent State. The Raiders rolled over the warriors 9-0 in Shaker's second round of the playoffs and second straight shutout, following a 12-0 victory over Garfield Heights. The Raiders also defeated Mentor 8-2 Feb. 22.



Schiller

## Trying new sports to stay busy, happy, healthy

Athletes rely on friends to make quick study of new sports

BY MEAGAN STEINER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Maybe it's cabin fever or maybe it's too many Frappuccinos, but some Shaker athletes just can't stay put. Literally.

The lane in the Woodbury pool for new swimmers is a testament to the number of athletes trying new sports partway through high school. According to head coach Eric Peterson, six or seven non-freshman began swimming this year.

"We work together. There's a bunch of new people this year and we all kind of support each other," sophomore Alex Kushner said.

Junior Jessie Schiller, LEL MVP tennis player and softball team member, said she began swimming this year along with some of her friends because she wanted something to do after school in the winter and many

of her friends were already on the team. She said that because the new

team members practice in the same lane, they can be with swimmers at the same pace without feeling that they are slowing down the team.

Junior Julia Shatten also felt she wasn't busy enough in the winter and began diving as a sophomore. More surprisingly, after playing field hockey since eighth grade, she switched to soccer this fall, along with field hockey player Kali Falkner.

"I knew I wouldn't be playing [field hockey] in college, so I guess I just decided to try it out for fun," said Shatten, also a lacrosse player.

Athletic Director Susan Brown said Shatten is a good soccer player but was also a very good field hockey player. Brown is surprised Shatten switched sports.

Falkner, a junior, said that while she liked the team, she hated field hockey because she felt she wasn't improving and there was too much pressure to make varsity as a junior. This pressure does not exist on the soccer team, where seniors play on JV and still have fun.

"It was kinda like an impulse to play soccer, and someone just told me it was really fun and it wasn't serious," she said.

Because she was on the JV soccer team this year, Falkner didn't feel she lagged behind her teammates. She improved more than she had in three years of field hockey because with soccer "I was so much more moti-

vated that it not only improved my physical condition but also my willingness to play a sport and really enjoy it."

Junior Mollie Silver, another new addition to the swim team, took the plunge because running cross-country and track put too much strain on her knees.

Junior Chris Bess also made a change for health reasons. Because of knee surgery, he played golf instead of football as a sophomore. While he didn't feel behind his team in talent, he wasn't as familiar with rules for competition.

"Some people who just play sports for the fun of it, they're not too competitive. They tend to make changes more often than people who really care," said Bess, who also plays basketball.

SEE CHANGE SPORTS PAGE 15